

Joseph Johnson, Jr.,

#000580

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Pro Se

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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**JOSEPH JOHNSON, JR.,**

**Case No.: C 08 1088 SI**

**Petitioner**

**SECOND AMENDED**

**Vs.**

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS**

**PAM AHLIN, (ACTING) EXECUTIVE**

**CORPUS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §2254/**

**DIRECTOR OF COALINGA STATE**

**2241(c)(3)**

**HOSPITAL et al;**

**Respondent** /

**Read Comments Carefully Before Filing In**

**When and Where to File**

You should file in the Northern District if you were convicted and sentence in one of these counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Sonoma.

You should also file in this district if you are challenging the manner in which your sentence is being executed, such as loss of good time credits, and you are confined in one of these counties. Habeas L.R. 2254-3(a).

If you are challenging your conviction or sentence and you were not convicted and sentence in one of the above-named Fifteen counties, your petition will be likely transferred to the United States District Court for the district in which the state court that convicted and sentence you is located. If you are challenging the execution of your sentence and you are not in prison in one of

these counties, your petition will likely be transferred to the district court for the district that includes the institution where you are confined. Habeas L.R. 2254-3(b)

### Who To Name as Respondent

You must name the person in whose actual custody you are. This usually means the Warden or jailor. Do not name the State of California, a city, a county or the superior court of the county in which you are imprisoned or by whom you were convicted and sentence. These are not proper respondents.

If you are not presently in custody pursuant to state judgment against which you seek relief but may be subject to such custody in the future (e.g., detainees), you must name the person in whose custody you are now and the Attorney General of the state in which the judgment you seek to attack was entered.

### **A. INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CONVICTION AND SENTENCE:**

1. What sentence are you challenging in this petition ?

(a) Name and location of court that imposed sentence(for example; Alameda County Superior Court, Oakland): **Santa Clara County Superior Court, San Jose CA**

(b) Case Number, if Known: **Santa Clara Co.Super.Ct. No.: 210431;Ct.of App. No.:H029316.**

(c) Date and terms of sentence: **two-year civil commitment**

(d) Are you now in custody serving this term ? (Custody means being in jail, or parole or probation, etc.)

**Yes X**

**No**

Where ?

Name of Institution: **COALINGA STATE HOSPITAL**

Address: **P.O. Box 5003, Coalinga CA**

2. For what crime were you given this sentence ?(If your petition challenges a sentence for more than one crime,

List each crime separately using Penal Code numbers if known. If you are challenging more than one sentence, you should file a different petition for each sentence.): **I was not sentence for a crime, this is a civil commitment under**

**California's Sexually Violent Predator Act Welfare and Institutions Code §6604**

3. Did you have any of the following ?

Arraignment:/ Probable Cause Yes X No    

Preliminary Hearing: Yes X No

Motion to Suppress: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

4. How did you plead ?

Guilty \_\_\_\_\_ Not Guilty X Nolo Contendere \_\_\_\_\_

Any other plea (specify) **Denied truth of petition**

5. If you went to trial, what kind of trial did you have ?

Jury XX Judge alone \_\_\_\_\_ Judge alone on a transcript \_\_\_\_\_

6. Did you testify at your trial ? Yes X No \_\_\_\_

7. Did you have an attorney at the following proceedings:

(a) Arraignment Yes X No \_\_\_\_

(b) Preliminary hearing Yes \_\_\_\_ No X

(c) Time of plea Yes X No \_\_\_\_

(d) Trial Yes \_\_\_\_ No X

(e) Sentencing Yes \_\_\_\_ No X

(f) Appeal Yes X No \_\_\_\_

(g) Other post-conviction proceeding Yes \_\_\_\_ No X

8. Did you appeal your conviction ? Yes X No \_\_\_\_

9. Other than appeals, have you previously file any petitions, applications or motion with respect to the [current proceeding] in any court, state or federal ? Yes \_\_\_\_ No X

[Note: If you previously filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in federal court that challenged the same conviction you are challenging now and if that petition was denied or dismissed with prejudice, you much first file a motion in the United

1 States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for an order authorizing the district  
 2 court to consider this petition. You may not file a second or subsequent federal  
 3 habeas petition without first obtaining such an order from the Ninth Circuit.28  
 4 U.S.C. §§2244(b).]

5 **B. GROUND FOR RELIEF:**

6 State briefly every reason that you believe you are being confined unlawfully. Give facts to support each claim. For  
 7 example, what legal right or privilege were you denied? What Happen? Who made the error? Avoid legal arguments with  
 8 numerous case citation. Attach extra paper if you need more space. Answer the same questions for each claim.

9 [Note: You must present ALL your claims in your federal habeas petition subsequent petitions may be dismissed without  
 10 review on the merits. 28 U.S.C. §2244 (b); McCleskey v. Zant, 499 U.S.467, 111 S.Ct.1454, 133 L.Ed.2d 517 (1991).]

11 **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

12 1. On April 25, 2002, a petition for recommitment was filed pursuant to  
 13 Welfare and Institutions Code section 6604, seeking to extend petitioner's confinement from May  
 14 24, 2002 to May 24, 2004.

15 2. On May 21, 2002, the probable cause hearing commenced.

16 In the month of January-March 2003, a motion was filed by petitioner regarding that  
 17 the court did not have jurisdiction to the 2002-2004 petition, because the Director of Mental  
 18 Health did not request a letter to the district attorney to have petitioner 2002-2004 petition file,  
 19 pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 6601 (d)-(e) et seq. Instead it was done by the local  
 20 Atascadero State's Hospital's Medical Director Robert S. Knapp, (See attached request letter) and  
 21 that the petition should be dismissed. The Superior Court Judge Alfonso Fernandez denied  
 22 Petitioner's motion to dismiss. A writ of mandamus was filed in the Sixth District Court of  
 23 Appeal seeking reversal that was denied by the Sixth District Court of Appeals, and review by the  
 24 State's Supreme Court was also denied. Petitioner filed a writ of habeas corpus in this Court, but  
 25 later ask that the petition be dismissed without prejudice to file at a later date in order to wait for all  
 26 of the issues to be addressed by the inferior courts on direct appeal first.

27 3. On June 27, 2003, the trial court found probable cause and ordered  
 28 petitioner to trial on the petition. A jury trial was set for April 5, 2004.

1           4.       On February 17, 2004, another petition for recommitment for the period on May  
2 24,2004 through May 24, 2006 was filed.

3           5.       On March 8, 2004, the district attorney filed a motion to consolidate the 2002-2004  
4 and 2004-2006 petitions for trial.

5           6.       On April 2, 2004, the trial court consolidate the petitions and vacated the April 5,  
6 2004 trial date as to the instant petition.

7           7.       On April 23, 2004, petitioner filed a petition for writ of mandamus in the Court of  
8 Appeal seeking to reverse the order for consolidation. The Court of Appeal issued an Order to  
9 Show Cause and stay on all proceedings on May 19,2004 (See Litmon, supra, 123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup>  
10 1156, 1164 (Litmon).)

11           8.       On November 4, 2004, the Sixth District Court of Appeal granted petitioner's Writ  
12 of Mandate finding that consolidation of the SVP petitions was inappropriate in this case. The  
13 Court ordered the Superior Court to schedule trials on each petition.

14           9.       Petitioner briefed and argued Motion to Dismiss the First Petition on April 6,2005.  
15 Petitioner argued that the first petition must be dismissed because it is moot. The intended  
16 commitment period of May 24, 2002 through May 24,2004 had passed without a trial due to a  
17 prejudicial delay by the court and the prosecution. Honorable Alfonso Fernandez denied the  
18 motion . Trial on the first petition was scheduled for August 22, 2005.

19           10.      On June 1, 2005 a Writ of Mandate and /or Prohibition was filed in the Sixth  
20 District of Appeals seeking to reverse Petitioners Superior Court denial decision of Motion to  
21 dismiss Petition because of Moot.(H028873). The Writ was denied by the Sixth District of  
22 Appeals.

23           11.      Petitioner subsequently filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus on June 30, 2005 for review  
24 in the California Supreme Court alleging that a trial on the May 24, 2002 through May 24, 2004  
25 recommitment petition would violate petitioners due process rights under the California's and the  
26 United States Constitutions, because the recommitment petition is moot.

27           12.      On September 7, 2005, the California Supreme Court denied the Petition for relief  
28 without comment (S135199).

13. On August 15, 2005, the trial on the instant petition commenced, and continued for a total of nine days, through September 2, 2005, the jury found the allegations of the petition to be true. An order of recommitment was entered by the trial court on September 6, 2005.

14. On September 6, 2005, petitioner filed a timely notice of appeal.

15. On October 17, 2007, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's order of recommitment without addressing any of petitioners issues because of the petition being moot.

16. On January 23, 2008 the California State Supreme Court denied petition for review(See Attached: S158324).

## ARGUMENT

17. This petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254/§ 2241(c) (3) is the proper remedy for this Court to ascertain whether Petitioner was/is lawfully deprived of his State and United States Due Process and Equal Protection liberty rights.

## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

**I. THE WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE AND CASELAW SPECIFY WHEN AND WHO REQUEST LETTER FOR PETITION TO BE FILED FOR COMMITMENT.**

18. Pursuant and According to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6601 subdivision (d)- (h):

19. (a). (d) Pursuant to subdivision (c), the person shall be evaluated by two practicing psychiatrists or psychologists, or one practicing psychiatrist and one practicing psychologist, ***designated by the Director of Mental Health***. If both evaluators concur that the person has a diagnosed mental disorder or that he or she is likely to engage in acts of sexual violence without appropriate treatment and custody, ***the Director of Mental Health shall forward a request for a petition for commitment*** under Section 6602 to the county designated in subdivision (i). Copies of the evaluation reports and any other supporting documents shall be made available to the attorney designate by the county pursuant to subdivision (i) who may file a petition for commitment.

20. The statute indicates that the proceedings for a Petition to Extend Commitment are the same as an initial petition. (*People v. Butler* (2000) 78 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1171). Evaluators for the petition are to be designated by the Director of the Department of Mental Health and, when appropriate, the Director of the Department of Mental health should submit a letter to the district attorney requesting that a first petition be filed. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6601 (c) to (i) describes a process by which the Director of the Department of Mental Health makes the first determination of which evaluators to assign to an individual petition and whether or not to recommend that a petition be filed. In Mr. Johnson's case, there is no indication that anyone other than the Medical Director Robert S. Knapp M.D.(Petitioner ask the Court to Please TAKE JUDICIAL NOTICE of the attached Letter of Request Exhibit "A") of Atascadero State local Hospital made the decision on who the designated evaluators should be, and request a letter for a petition to be filed on the first petition, nor any suggestion by the Director of the Department of Mental Health that a First Petition should be filed. Similar to the impermissible activity of the Director of the Department of Mental Health in *Ghilotti*, the Medical Director of Atascadero State local Hospital here has bypassed a number of statutory procedures to produce a desired result. Finally, under subdivision (h) of section 6601, the Director "shall" forward a petition request to the appropriate county "[i]f the .. Department ... determines that the person is a sexually violent predator as defined in this article...." Copies of the evaluation reports and any other supporting documents shall be made available" to the county's attorney. (Ibid., italics added.)

21. "The clear import of this scheme is that the Department's "determine[ation]" under section 6601, subdivision (h), is governed by the evaluation procedure described at length in subdivisions (c) through (g) of the same section. When subdivisions (c) through (h) of section 6601 are read together, they ascribe [27 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 907] the Director's authority as follows: Before requesting a petition, the Director must designate two mental health professionals to evaluate the person.

22. If these two evaluators agree that the person meets the criteria for commitment, the Director must request a petition. If, however, these first two evaluators do not agree on this issue, the Director must arrange a further examination by two [44 P.3d 962] independent professionals.

1 ... .”

2 23. The general rule is that when a statute prescribes certain procedures, a trial court  
3 has no power to act without the occurrence of those procedural prerequisites. (*People v. The*  
4 *Superior Court of Contra Costa County (Whitley)* (1999)68 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1383,1387.); (*People*  
5 *v. Superior Court (Marks)*(1991) 1 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 56, 66, 2 Cal. Rptr.2d 389, 820 P.2d 613; see  
6 *Abelleira v. District Court of Appeal (1941) 17 Cal.2d 280, 288,109 P.2d 942.) (FN 3/ Thus it*  
7 *has been held that when a statute establishes prerequisites for maintenance of a civil commitment*  
8 *procedure, a trial court’s jurisdiction or power to enter an order of commitment depends [68*  
9 *Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1388] on compliance with those prerequisites. (see, e.g., In re Raner (1963) 59 Cal.2d*  
10 *635, 639, 30 Cal.Rptr. 16, 453 P. 2d 456 [CRC commitment invalid; noncompliance with*  
11 *requirements for medical examination]. ) The rule has been applied to invalidate an extended*  
12 *commitment of a defendant to a mental hospital under Penal Code section 1026.5 because contrary*  
13 *to the statute, the proceedings were initiated by a petition filed several weeks after the expiration*  
14 *of the defendant’s existing commitment. (People v. Pacini (1981) 120 Cal. App. 3d 877, 891-892*  
15 *& fn. 12,174 Cal.Rptr.820.)*

16 24. In *People v. Superior Court (Ghilotti)*,119 Cal.Rptr.2d 1, 27 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 8 (Cal.  
17 **2002)** the California State Supreme Court ruled: “We agree with the superior court and the Court  
18 of Appeals that this is not a plausible reading of the statute. ‘To determine legislative intent, a  
19 court begins with the words of the statute, because they generally provide the most reliable  
20 indicator of legislative intent.’ [Citation.] If it is clear and unambiguous our inquiry ends. There  
21 is no needs for judicial construction and a court may not indulge in it.

22 [Citation.] “If there is no ambiguity in the language, we presume the Legislature meant what it  
23 said and the plain meaning of the statute governs.”[Citation.]” (Diamond Multimedia Systems,  
24 Inc. v. Superior Court (1999) 19 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 1036, 1047, 80 Cal.Rptr.2d 828, 968 P.2d 539.)

25 25. Here, the plain language of section 6601 and a response letter from the Chief Sex  
26 Offender Commitment Program, Sylvia Blount of the California Department of Mental Health  
27 (See attached Letter Exhibit “B”), stating that: “.. *the Medical Director of Atascadero State local*  
28 *Hospital (ASH) can represent and speak for ASH in that capacity, but does not represent the*

1 *Department's opinion nor does he speak for the Department when the statute calls for action by*  
 2 *the "Department" or the "Director of the Department." The final decision on whether or not to*  
 3 *proceed, and how to proceed, on any case, when the statute calls for action or decision by the*  
 4 *Department must be made by the Director of DMH."....."* governs.

5       26. Subdivision (b) through (g) of section 6601 set forth the procedures, including the  
 6 concurrence of two mental health evaluators, by which [27 Cal,4<sup>th</sup> 906] the Department must make  
 7 the "determine[ation]" to which subdivision (h) refers. Subdivision (h), in turn, refers to a  
 8 "determine[ation]" made by resort to those procedures, not in disregard of them.

9       27. As in the original commitment process, section 6601, subdivision (c) through (h)  
 10 guide the Director of the DMH in screening potential SVPs. The requirements of these subdivision  
 11 may not simply be ignored. To do so would undermine the director's determination of which  
 12 person to refer for a petition for recommitment. At minimum, absent any standards, the  
 13 Director's decision will be completely discretionary and could lead to unchecked abuse and  
 14 arbitrary results. In fact, here, the Director of the DMH did not designate the evaluators, nor did he  
 15 send a request letter to the district attorney referring Johnson for a recommitment petition to be  
 16 filed. It is highly unlikely the Legislature intended an arbitrary application simply because the  
 17 request was for an extended commitment as opposed to an original one. Absent a clear direction  
 18 from the Legislature that this was its intent, the court must reject this construction because it lacks  
 19 common sense, denies due process, and raises potential equal protection concerns. "We avoid this  
 20 interpretations and constructions which defy common sense or which might lead to mischief or  
 21 absurdity ..." *Board of Retirement v. Santa Barbara County Grand Jury* (1997) 58 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup>  
 22 1185, 1189, 68 Cal.Rptr.2d 607.) (See also *People v. Superior Court (Gary)*, 101 Cal.Rptr.2d 874,  
 23 85 Cal.App. 216).

24       28. Petitioner contends that his Due Process and Equal Protection rights were violated  
 25 under the California's Statutory, Constitutional and United States Constitutional laws.

26  
 27       **II. THE SVP ACT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR A TRIAL ON A MOOT**  
 28       **PETITION WHERE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY/COURT IS/WHERE**

**RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRETRIAL DELAY**

**A. The Trial Court Was Required To Dismiss The 2002-2004 Recommitment Petition Because It Was Moot.**

**(a). Introduction and Procedural Background**

29. The prosecution's successful consolidation of this 2002-2004 petition with the trailing 2004-2006 petition resulting in the original 2002-2004 petition trial date of April 5, 2004, being vacated and reset to September 1, 2004, a date following the expiration of the 2002-2004 recommitment period. (*Johnson, supra*, 123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> at p.1162.)

30. In *Johnson*, the Court agreed with petitioner that the trial court erred in consolidating the petitions over his objections, where the delay was solely for the purpose of accommodating the prosecution's request for consolidation. (*Johnson, supra*, 123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> at p. 1161, 1172-1179.)

31. On March 9, 2005, with the Court of Appeal's order in place for separate trials, petitioner filed a motion to dismiss the 2002-2004 petition on the ground that it was moot and proceeding with it would deny him due process. (CT 263-274, 276; RT [Mar. 11, 2005] 3.)

32. In so ruling, the trial court agreed with the prosecutor the *Johnson* court impliedly rejected the mootness argument by not ordering (*sua sponte*) the instant petition dismissed, and ordering separate trials instead. (T 294; RT [Apr. 6, 2005] 12.) The Court of Appeal did not adopt this reasoning. (Appendix, pp. 13-14.) Nevertheless, petitioner filed a Petition For Writ Of Mandate And Or Prohibition (H028873) on June 1, 2005 in the Sixth District Court of Appeal challenging the Superior Court denial of his motion to dismiss the moot petition, it too was denied. On June 30, 2005 petitioner filed a Writ For Review in the California Supreme Court challenging the Superior and the Sixth District of Appeals Courts denial of his motion to dismiss. On September 7, 2005 Petition for review was denied(S135199). On November 30, 2005 petitioner filed a Petition For Writ of Habeas Corpus into this Court(C 05 4916 SI) later having it dismissed without prejudice in order to have all of the issues addressed in the inferior courts at the same time, and then bring them all before this Court.

33. The Sixth Appellate District Court denied petitioner's direct appeal with the ruling:

1           *"However, because the commitment period at issue (2002-2004) has expired, we will*  
 2       *dismiss this appeal as moot"....." at p. 2.*

3           34. The Sixth District Appellate Court in it's ruling on p.13-14 made an inaccurate  
 4 rendering of what actually transpired. The court stated: "... "Defendant, who at all times during  
 5 the writ proceedings in this court was represented by counsel, did not petition for rehearing of our  
 6 disposition. However, defendant filed a pro per petition for review in the California Supreme  
 7 Court arguing for the first time that because the 2002-2004 commitment period had already  
 8 expired, the recommitment petition was moot and must be dismissed because 'the SVPA does not  
 9 provide[] for determination of one's mental condition and dangerousness after the fact [and]  
 10 clearly the remedy should have been an order[] that all recommitment petitions be dismissed, and  
 11 Johnson be released forthwith.'" The Supreme Court denied review.

12           35. Over defense objections of mootness, the trial court carried out our disposition and  
 13 defendant was given his trial on the 2002 petition. Now, on appeal from an unfavorable verdict,  
 14 defendant complains that he should never had a trial at all because, by the time the trial took place,  
 15 he had long since served the two-year recommitment period to which the 2002 petition pertained.

16           36. Contrary to the Sixth District of Appeals rendering, on March 11, 2005, there was  
 17 a Motion to Dismiss the petition for mootness filed on March 11, 2005 in the Superior Court #41  
 18 Judge Fernandez. On June 1, 2005 there was a Petition For Writ Of Mandate And/Or Prohibition  
 19 filed in the Sixth District of Appeal Court(H028873). Petitioner Pro Per Writ was filed on June  
 20 30, 2005 and denied on September 7, 2005 by the State Supreme Court(S135199 see attached)

21           37. These filed Motions to Dismiss the Petition because of mootness was filed  
 22 by petitioner after the Sixth District Court of Appeal disposition to the Superior Court, and before  
 23 Petitioners 2002 petition trial held on August-September 2005.

24           **B. Petitioner Was Entitled To Have the 2002-2004 Recommitment Petition**  
 25           **Dismissed by the Superior Court on Mootness Grounds, and Appeals Court**  
 26           **Erred in Concluding that an Underlying Moot Petition Renders the Appeal**  
 27           **On that and Other Issues Moot as Well.**

28           38. Mootness is a judicial doctrine intended to remove cases from the court docket as

1 to which the “essential character” of the dispute or controversy between the parties cease to exist,  
 2 such that the purpose for which one or the other party has sought judicial action ceases to exist.  
 3 (*Wilson v. Los Angeles County Civil Service Com.* (1952) 112 Cal. App.2d 450, 453.)

4 39. The mootness doctrine has resulted in decisions both affirming and vacating  
 5 judgments previously entered. (*Wilson v. Los Angeles County Civil Service Com.* (1952) 112  
 6 Cal.App.2d at p. 453; *Pittenger v. Home Savings and Loan Assn.* (1958) 166 Cal.App.2d 32, 36-  
 7 38; *Paoli v. California & Hawaiian Sugar Refining Corp.* (1956) 140 Cal. App.2d 854, 856-858.)

8 40. Mootness also arises in the context of appeals and other special proceedings. (See,  
 9 e.g., *People v. Cheek* (2001) 25 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 894, 897-898 [SVPA appeal].) An exception to the  
 10 doctrine has developed for issues technically moot at the trial court but which constitute  
 11 continuing controversies “capable of repetition yet evading review,” thus compelling a need for a  
 12 decision by the appellate court as to the matter formerly in controversy. (*Johnson, supra*, 123  
 13 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> a p.1176.) While the appellate court rule of mootness is similar to that applied in trial  
 14 courts, it involves different considerations going beyond the interests of the parties in this case,  
 15 allowing for an exception that does not truly exist at the trial court level.

16 41. Regardless, the principle in force in all cases is that the function of the courts is to  
 17 resolve real controversies. (See *Hewitt v. Helms* (1986) 482 U.S. 755, 761 [“At the end of the  
 18 rainbow lies not a judgment, but some action (or cessation of action) by the defendant that the  
 19 judgment produces—the payment of damages, or some specific performance, or the termination of  
 20 some conduct.”].) The factual predicate for mootness arises in a number of ways, including (1)  
 21 the expiration of a time limit (*In re Application of Cothran* (1937) 24 Cal.App.2d 65, 66; (*Paoli v.*  
 22 *California & Hawaiian Sugar Refining Corp., supra*, 140 Cal.App.2d 854, 856-868; (2) the  
 23 action of the parties (*Neary v. Regents of University of California* (1992) 3 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 273, 281-282;  
 24 *Bocato v. City of Hermosa Beach* (1984) 158 Cal App.3d 804, 808-809; (3) the death of a party  
 25 (*Dexter v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County* (1940) 15 Cal.2d 405, 405-406; and (4) the  
 26 actions of the third parties (*Press v. Com. On Judicial Performance* (1989) 48 Cal.3d 226, 226).  
 27 Stated from the perspective of the SVP Petitioner, he seeks to win release prior to the expiration of  
 28 the recommitment term and his interest ceases when the period in controversy expires. As

1 explained below, so, too, does the state's interest cease to exist. (see also *People ex rel. McKeon*  
 2 (1914) 168 Cal. 306; *In re Application of Cothran, Supra*, 24 Cal.App.2d at p.66 [habeas corpus  
 3 proceedings].)

4 **1. There Was No Basis for a Continuing Controversy in this Case.**

5 42. It is well established that each recommitment petition is distinct unto itself  
 6 because only a "current" mental disorder is relevant. (Sec. 6600, subd. (a) (3); *Butler v. Superior*  
 7 *Court* (2000) 78 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1171, 1180; *Albertson v. Superior Court* (2001) 25 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 796, 802-  
 8 802; *People v. Merfield* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1071 [Mentally Disordered Offender  
 9 proceedings].) Proving that the respondent "currently" suffers a mental disorder when the  
 10 recommitment period sought has already expired makes no logical sense. It is pointless and  
 11 prejudicial for him to prove he suffered a dangerous mental illness at some point in the past or that  
 12 he was likely to commit offenses if he had been released during that time. (RT [Apr. 6, 2005] 5.)  
 13 *Hubbart v. Superior Court* (1999) 19 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 1138 noted that each filing of a successive petition  
 14 commences a new round of litigation. (*Id.* At p. 1177.) Thus, proof of a prior recommitment  
 15 period is not a antecedent requirement for proof of a subsequent live recommitment petition. As  
 16 *Johnson* reaffirmed, very few events cause the trial court to ever lose jurisdiction of an SVPA  
 17 petition, short of negligence on the prosecution's part in failing to file a recommitment  
 18 petition prior to the expiration of the preceding one. (*Johnson, supra*, 123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> at pp.  
 19 1170-1177, citing *People v. Hedge* (1999) 72 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1466, 1475-1477; *People v. Superior*  
 20 *Court (Ramirez)* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1384, 1390; see also *Orozco v. Superior Court* (2004) 117  
 21 Cal.App. 4<sup>th</sup> 170, 178-179, cert. den (2004) 534 U.S. 1008; *People v. Ward* (2002) 97 Cal. App.  
 22 4<sup>th</sup> 631, 634-635; *People v. Superior Court (Butler)* (2000) 83 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 951, 961-963.)

23 43. Nor does a post-expiration hearing secure any important benefit to the defendant.  
 24 (See *Hubbart v. Superior Court, supra*, 19 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> at p. 1177 [respondent may petition at any time  
 25 for conditional release].) Prevailing on the first petition does not secure the respondent's  
 26 immediate release so long as a timely subsequent petition had been filed. (Sec. 6604; *People*  
 27 *v. Ward, supra*, 97 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 631, 633-634; *Orozco v. Superior Court, supra*, 117 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> at  
 28 p. 180.)

44. While the *Johnson* court concluded that the various jurisdictional holdings (see *Johnson, supra*, 123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> at p.1171) “effectively removed the threat of dismissal which, in both criminal and general civil cases, impels cases to trial or other resolution within specified time periods set either by statute or court rules” (*Id.*), this was in the sense of the trial court’s retention of jurisdiction only. The doctrine of mootness is a different matter, and whether or not it serves to impel cases to trial in a timely fashion immaterial.

45. Petitioner cited *People v. Merfield, supra*, 147 Cal.App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1071, for the proposition that when the “current” condition of the patient is no longer in issue due to the lapsing of the undedying commitment period, the action is moot. (Supplemental Letter Brief (Apr. 12, 2007).)

46. The Court of Appeal did not address the argument or distinguish the case.

47. The Court of Appeal concluded that if no controversy existed because petitioner had fully served the underlying recommitment period, then the appeal was moot by the very same reasoning. To the extent the court drew this reasoning from *Merfield*, petitioner submits that *Merfield* should be disregarded. (Court Opinion, p. 14 “[F]urthermore, he has already had the trial which he says he should not have had.”.) The Court of Appeal’s reasoning is erroneous and has potential adverse consequences if adopted in future cases. The court ignores petitioner’s key argument that being subject to jeopardy as a result of a purposeless trial, including all of the collateral consequences such as self-incriminating testimony and orders to pay attorney fees, is the reason why a moot petition should be dismissed before the trial commenced.

48. Petitioner contends that his Due Process and Equal Protection rights were violated Under the California Statutory and Constitutional, and the United States Constitutional laws.

**III. BY ALLOWING THE CASE TO PROCEED TO TRIAL ON A MOOT PETITION THE TRIAL COURT DENIED PETITIONER HIS RIGHTS TO DUE PROCESS AND SUBSTANTIVE DUE PROCESS.**

49. Petitioner advanced a substantive due process argument which claims that proceeding to trial on a moot SVPA petition is fundamentally unfair to the Petitioner because no legitimate governmental interest is advanced by a trial on such a petition, while simultaneously

1 there are advance collateral consequence to him. In addition, the failure of the trial court to ensure  
 2 what amounts to a speedy trial right prejudices petitioner's ability to seek release within the only  
 3 time period relevant to such analysis, namely, the commitment period sought in the underlying  
 4 petition. This combination renders such proceedings unconstitutional. (*Foucha v. Louisiana* (1992)  
 5 504 U.S. 71, 80; *Zinerman v. Burch* (1990) 494 U.S. 113, 125]; *Daniel v. Williams* (1986) 474  
 6 U.S. 327, 331; U.S. Const. 5<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Amds.; Cal. Const, Art 1, sec 7 (a); see also *Zachary v.*  
 7 *Superior Court* (1997) 57 Cal. App.4<sup>th</sup> 1026, 1035.) The Court of Appeal failed to address this  
 8 question, finding only that if there were an arguable claim on this point, it did not need to be  
 9 addressed in the appeal because the issue did not affect the public interest and was unlikely to  
 10 recur in the future. (Court Opinion, p. 15.)

11 50. Petitioner notes that the constitutional analysis for application the and state right to  
 12 a speedy criminal trial relates strictly to delay and the party primarily responsible, employing a  
 13 four-factor, balancing test involving the length of the delay, the reason for the delay, the  
 14 defendant's/petitioner's assertion of his right to be brought to trial, and the prejudice caused by  
 15 the delay. (*People v. Hill* (1984) 37 Cal.3d 491, 496.)

16 51. Unlike the *Orozco* situation, when the respondent is prepared to complete trial prior  
 17 to the expiration of the commitment period as here, his due process claim must be granted when  
 18 the only action preventing completion of the trial is that of the prosecution is seeking a motion to  
 19 consolidate and the trial court in erroneously granting that motion. Thus, the State must be  
 20 deemed to have forfeited the right to litigate the issues of a petition that has become moot, for  
 21 whatever reason. *Zachary v. Superior Court, supra*, 57 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1035-1036.)

22 52. "Due Process calls for an individual determination before some one is locked  
 23 away" *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 551, 123 S.Ct. 1708, 155 L.Ed. 2d 724 (2003) that has not  
 24 happen in this case. The procedural due process Petitioner was due in this case, was that he be  
 25 afforded the opportunity to defend against the extended 2002-2004 re- commitment petition before  
 26 the two year re-commitment petition term expired, and to his freedom if such allegations were  
 27 found not true.

53. The point is not to establish that the prosecution lacks justification for its failure to proceed expeditiously in order to find that the petitioner's competing liberty interest outweighs the interests of the state. Rather the point is that the state's interest simply ceases to exist once the period expires.

54. Due Process not only affords procedural safeguards to protect interests, but likewise protects substantive aspects of Petitioner's liberty against impermissible government restrictions. *Kelly v. Johnson*, 96 S Ct.1444 (1976). Substantive due process concerns limits on governmental conduct toward an individual regardless of the procedural protections.

55. The United States Supreme Court has enunciated two tests by which substantive due process is examined.

56. First, Petitioner must prove that the governmental conduct shocks the conscience, that is, the acts alleged to have violated substantive due process, must do more than offend some "fastidious squeamishness or private sentimentalish," *Sanchez v. University of Connecticut Health Care*, 292 F. Supp.2d 385(2003) but must be such as to offend even hardened sensibilities, or be offensive to human dignity.

57. Petitioner contends that his case meets this test, because he had/had been not only detained for over three years without a trial on the merits of whether he continues to be an SVP, in need of appropriate treatment and custody from May 2002 to May 2004, and the fact that he had a trial eighteen months after the expiration of the two-year term on a moot petition. There can be no question that such detention has denied Petitioner the right to defend against allegations after the fact, that he is an SVP, and has subjected him to oppressive and punitive incarceration without due process. This abuse of governmental power is shocking and violates the basic fundamental values of American Society, that when an individual is subjected to deprivatory governmental action they are always entitled to fair and unprejudicial decision making, and are always treated with respect and dignity. *People v. Ramirez*, (1979) 25 Cal.3d 260, 268.

58. Under the U.S. Supreme Court's second substantive due process test, Petitioner must prove that an identified liberty interest protected by the *Fourteenth Amendment* has been violated.(Please see arguments 49, 66 & 68 for relevant answers)

**A. PETITIONER'S CIVIL COMMITMENT AFTER THE  
APPLICABLE COMMITMENT TERM EXPIRED VIOLATED  
HIS DUE PROCESS RIGHTS UNDER THE FOURTEENTH  
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

The United States Supreme Court has made it clear that involuntary civil commitment to mental institutions are subject to due process protection under U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment. (*Vitek v. Jones*, (1980) 445 U.S. 480; *Zinermon v. Burch*, (1990) 494 U.S. 113) In addition, the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment, requires a trial at a "meaningful time". (*Mathews v. Eldridge*, (1976) 424 U.S. 319.

Under California's Sexually Violent Predator Act, (SVPA) there are no specific time limits when either a initial or recommitment trial must be conducted. Although, in *Litmon v. Superior Court*, 123 Cal.App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1156, the court stated that "(t)he main procedural mechanism through which the Legislature's intent [in relation to the SVPA] is realized is the provision of a trial every two years to ascertain the committed person's current mental condition." (*Litmon v. Superior Court*, 123 Cal. App.4<sup>th</sup> at 1169). In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court, held that the civil commitment of a person coming to the end of a prison term was constitutional. The Supreme Court, stated; "(w)e have consistently upheld such involuntary commitment statutes provided the confinement takes place pursuant to proper procedures and evidentiary standards." *Kansas v. Hendricks*. 117 S. Ct. at 2080. Petitioner's civil commitment as a SVP 15 months after the applicable commitment term expired no longer bears a reasonable relation to the purpose for which Petitioner was committed, which was for custody and treatment. *Jackson v. Indiana*, 406 U.S. 715 (1972); *McNeil v. Director, Patuxent Institution* 407 U.S. 245 (1972) Petitioner was to be committed under the 2002 petition from May 25, 2002 to May 25, 2004, when that time period expired Petitioner should have been released.

1           **1. THE MOOT PETITION IS NOT PROVIDED FOR BY THE SVPA.**

2           59. Although the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6601 and 6604 give clear  
3 guidelines on the process by which original and subsequent petitions are to be filed, neither statute  
4 allows for a trial on a moot petition. In relevant part Welfare and Institutions Code section 6601  
5 (2)(d) provides: “,,If both evaluators concur that the person has a diagnosed mental disorder so  
6 that he or she is likely to engage in acts of sexual violence without appropriate  
7 treatment and custody, the Director of Mental Health shall forward a request for  
8 a petition for commitment under Section 6602 in the county designated in  
9 subdivision (i). Copies of the evaluation reports and any other supporting  
10 documents shall be made available to the attorney designated by the county  
11 pursuant to subdivision (i) who may file a petition for commitment.”

12           60. (a) Welfare and Institutions Code section 6604 provides:

13                   “...If the court or jury determines that the person is a sexually violent  
14 predator, the person shall be committed for two years to the custody of the  
15 State Department of Mental Health for appropriate treatment and  
16 confinement in a secure facility designated by the Director of Mental Health  
17 and the **person shall not be kept in actual custody longer than two years**  
18 unless a subsequent extended commitment is obtained from the court  
19 incident to the filing of a petition for extended commitment under this  
20 article or unless the term of the commitment changes pursuant to sub-  
21 division (e) of Section 6605 (emphasis added).

22           61. The procedural requirements in the SVPA must be followed and there are no  
23 procedures for proceeding on a moot petition. In *People v. Gary* (2000) 85 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 207, the  
24 district attorney asked the court to require only one evaluator’s report in order to file a  
25 recommitment petition. The Petitioner also requested that the court use common sense rather than  
26 apply the established rules of statutory construction in reviewing section 6604. In rejecting the  
27 Petitioner’s argument the court said:

28                   The court’s role is construing a statute is to ‘ascertain the intent of the

Legislature so as to effectuate the purpose of the law.’ In determining the Legislature’s intent, a court looks first to the words of the statute. ‘It is the language of the statute itself that has successfully braved the legislative gauntlet.’

When looking to the words of a statute, a court gives the language its usual, ordinary meaning. {Citations} If there is no ambiguity in the language, we Presume the Legislature meant what it said and the plain meaning of the Statute governs. [Citations]. (*Id* at p.213 citing *People v. Snook*(1997)16 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 1201, 1215.)

... We cannot rewrite the statute to conform to the People’s notion of what the Legislature intended. ( *Gary* citing *Hofer v. Young* (1995) 38 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 52, 57; rewriting of a statute is a legislative, not a judicial, prerogative) Nor can we simply ignore the language used in attempting to determine what the Legislature intended since we are bound by the doctrine of state decisis to first Look to the words of the statute. (*Gary* at p. 213-14).

62. Here, the clear words of the statute provide for the filing of an initial commitment petition and the filing of a recommitment petition close in time to the termination of a previous commitment. Thus, the legislature intended that the trial on recommitment petitions occur within two years.

63. Each petition under the SVP Act is to be treated separately and litigation of each petition should be completed within two years. “Under California law, a new petition to extend an offender’s commitment for another two years constitutes a new and separate civil action... California courts themselves recognize the lack of any collateral consequences from a two-year commitment order under the SVPA by holding that the expiration of an SVP’s term of commitment renders any claims related to that commitment moot.” (*Burris v. Hunter* (2003)

290 F. Supp.2d 1097, 1101.) Nothing in the statute permits the trial on petition that is moot due to delays by the prosecution.

**IV. THE PROSECUTION CAUSED THE PRETRIAL  
DELAY AND VIOLATED MR. JOHNSON'S RIGHT  
TO DUE PROCESS.**

64. Where an alleged SVP is responsible for unnecessary delay in proceedings resulting in the expiration of the proposed two-year commitment prior to trial, courts have found that the Superior Court does not lose jurisdiction to proceed. (*Orozco v. Superior Court* (2004) 117 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 170; *People v. Superior Court (Ramirez)* (1999) 70 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1384, 1389-1391.) However, Petitioner submits that no court has decided what the remedy may be if the prosecution, and not the alleged SVP, is responsible for the fatal delay. History shows that courts have been unwilling to reward the party that caused the delay. The court have been responsive to correcting the denial of constitutional rights as is present in this case.

65. According to the Sixth District Appellate Court in *Johnson*:

"The SVPA is designed to ensure that continued confinement of an SVP is justified, if at all, at least every two years." (*Johnson* at p. 1176.) "...viewed as a whole, the SVPA clearly contemplates that a probable cause hearing and a trial on each and every petition to extend an SVP's commitment will occur every two years. It explicitly provides that courts 'shall order that a trial be conducted' on the merits of every petition to recommit a person as an SVP (Section 6602) and further provides that the person 'shall not be kept in actual custody longer than two years unless a subsequent extended commitment is obtained from the court incident to the filing of a petition for extended commitment...' (Section 6604.) (*Johnson* at p. 1175.) "Nevertheless, we believe that every effort consistent with existing statutory law must be made to bring SVP petition to trial expeditiously and certainly well before the expiration of the very two-year commitment period at issue in the trial." (*Johnson* at p. 1172.)

66. The United States Supreme Court has found that "at the least, due process requires that the nature and duration of commitment bear some reasonable relation to the purpose for which the individual is committed." (*Jackson v. Indiana* (1992) 406 U.S. 715, 738; See also *McNeil v.*

1 *Director, Patuxent Institution*, (1972) 407 U.S. 245,250). Because Mr. Johnson cannot be held in  
 2 custody longer than two years during a commitment, it certainly follows that Mr. Johnson cannot  
 3 be held longer than two years without a trial on the merits.

4 67. Unlike in *Orozco* and *Ramirez*, in this case, it was the People and not this  
 5 Petitioner who was responsible for the delay in the case. Petitioner was ready for trial in March,  
 6 2004, and the trial should have been concluded prior to the May 24, 2004 expiration date. Without  
 7 statutory authority, the petition is improper and must/should have been dismissed. To do otherwise  
 8 would/has violated Petitioner's due process rights under the California and United States  
 9 Constitutions.

10 **V. PETITIONER WAS DENIED DUE PROCESS OF LAW**  
 11 **WHEN HIS FIRST TRIAL WAS CONTINUED TO**  
 12 **ACCOMMODATE CONSOLIDATION AND TO PROCEED**  
 13 **ON THIS PETITION HAS VIOLATED DUE PROCESS.**

14 68. The state and federal constitutions prohibit the state from depriving Mr. Johnson of  
 15 his liberty without due process of law. There can be no question that Mr. Johnson has a liberty  
 16 interest in avoiding confinement in a mental hospital. Due Process requires that the nature and  
 17 duration bears some reasonable relation to the purpose for which Mr. Johnson is detained.  
 18 (*Jackson* at p.738). In addition, because Mr. Johnson is a civil detainee, he is entitled to greater  
 19 protection than persons under criminal process. (*Youngberg v. Romero* (1982) 457 U.S. 307;  
 20 *Jones v. Blanas* (2004) 393 F.3d 918). If an individual detained under criminal process must be  
 21 provided an opportunity to defend against criminal charged at a meaningful time, it certainly  
 22 shocks the conscience to detain Mr. Johnson for over thirty-eight (38) months, a civil detainee  
 23 who is not charged with a crime, for the entire two-years commitment term and some without a  
 24 trial on the merits. This amounts to impermissible oppressive and punitive incarceration.

25 69. Mr. Johnson is entitled to a trial at a "meaningful time and in a meaningful  
 26 manner." (*Mathews v. Eldridge* (1976) 96 S.Ct. 893.) That time was April 5, 2004- when both  
 27 parties announced ready and the trial was set prior to the termination of the proposed commitment.  
 28

1 In *Johnson*, the Sixth District Appellate Court indicated that “the sole remedy that we can afford  
 2 these petitioners is to direct the trial court to immediately schedule trials on the earlier petitions...”  
 3 (*Johnson* at p. 1177.); however, the superior court should not proceed on the moot petition, and  
 4 the Sixth District Appellate court should had heard petitioner’s (Writ H028873 filed on June 1,  
 5 2005)and ruled to dismiss the petition for mootness. The issue of whether a superior court can  
 6 proceed on a moot petition was not before the court of appeal when it decided whether  
 7 consolidation of petitions was appropriate. The language of *Johnson* indicates the court may have  
 8 identified and struggled with that issue.

9 70. For example, the court clarified the “...delaying trial on a recommitment petition  
 10 beyond the two years of the underlying commitment term does not violate the SVP’s due process  
 11 rights **where the SVP or the SVP’s attorney is responsible for the delays.**” (*Johnson* at p.1171  
 12 citing *Orozco v. Superior Court* (2004) 117 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 170, 179-180.) The court left unanswered  
 13 the issue of remedy where the People intentionally caused the delay. It stands to reason that if the  
 14 People caused the delay, proceedings on a moot petition violates Petitioner’s right to due process.  
 15 No one can take advantage of his own wrong. (California Civil Code Section 3517.) Petitioner’s  
 16 Motion to Dismiss should had been granted by both inferior courts.

17 **VI. PETITIONER WAS PREJUDICED BY THE PEOPLE’S**  
 18 **SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN THE TRIAL ON THE FIRST**  
 19 **MOOT PETITION.**

20 71. The First(2002-2004) Petition was intended to evaluate whether Petitioner met the  
 21 SVP criteria in April,2004, the time upon which the trial was to be heard. To simply go forward  
 22 with the trial would/has prejudice Mr. Johnson. There is no way to determine what the result of a  
 23 trial in April 2004 would have been. There is no way to return to April 2004 when we were at the  
 24 time in June-August-September 2005. The Real Party in Interest’s action caused the delay and  
 25 there is no legal remedy to turn back the clock. Further, Petitioner had argued in his June 1,2005  
 26 Writ to the Sixth District Appellate court(See H028873 p.15) that he would have no right to appeal  
 27 any decision by the superior court on the moot petition. It was not the superior court’s  
 28

responsibility to decide or preside over a case where a jury *decides* this irrecoverable issue that provides neither side with “effectual relief.” (*Estate of Rule* at p. 10.)

72. *Johnson* consequently has suffered prejudice, i.e., over thirty months of unauthorized confinement as a civil detainee in punitive conditions in the Santa Clara County Jail, and in a state mental hospital without a trial, prior to going to trial on a year and a half expired ‘moot’ petition for recommitment, followed by continued unauthorized confinement to date. Moreover, the court and the prosecution was the caused of this delay. Under these circumstances, the inferior courts erred in denying *Johnson’s* motion to dismiss the petition. *Zachary v. Superior Court* 67 Cal. Rptr.2d 532, 57 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1026 (Cal. App. 3 Dist. 1997). It would stand to reason, were the trial court to balance the alleged danger to the public against the prejudice to the committed person when a petition for extended commitment is belatedly filed, the requirement of conducting the trial prior to expiration of the commitment would be effectively vitiated. Were in this case *Johnson* was held during the whole two-year recommitment period without a trial on the merits, and the eighteen (18) months after to two-year petition becomes moot because of delay by the court and the prosecution decision to consolidate petitions, they take *Johnson* trial on a moot petition that’s eighteen months old from the two-year term.

## VII. PETITIONER WAS DENIED EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.

73. By treating Petitioner differently form other civil detainees, Petitioner has been denied equal protection under the California and United States Constitutions laws. “Equal Protection does not require that all persons be dealt with identically, but it does require that a distinction made have some relevance to the purpose for which the classification is made.” (*Baxtrom v. Herold* (1966) 383 U.S. 107, 111.) “The Equal Protection issue is whether actual distinctions in the statutory classes realistically justify disparity in treatment under the appropriate standard of review.” (*In re Hoffman* (1986) 42 Cal.3d 552, 561.)

74. The first prerequisite to meritorious claim under the equal protection clause is showing that the state has adopted a classification that affects two or more similarly situated groups in an unequal manner. (*In re Eric J* (1979) 25 Cal.3d. 522, 530; *People v. Buffington*

1 (1999) 74 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1149, 1155.)

2 75. The courts have used both a rational basis test and a strict scrutiny test when  
3 evaluating equal protection claims. "If a law neither burdens a fundamental right nor targets a  
4 suspect class, we will uphold the legislative classification so long as it bears a rational relationship  
5 to some legitimate end." *Romer v. Evans* (1996) 517 U.S.620.) If distinction does burden a  
6 fundamental right, the state must demonstrate that the distinction is both a necessary and narrowly  
7 tailored attempt to achieve a legitimate goal. (*Zablocki v. Redhail* (1978) 434 U.S. 374.)

8 76. The procedure employed in this instant case distinguished Petitioner from other  
9 potential SVP's. The distinction created bears no relationship to a legitimate purpose, and as such  
10 does not survive either a strict scrutiny or a rational basis analysis. Request Letter to have a  
11 petition filed by any one other than the Director of the California Mental Health Department, and  
12 substantially delaying a trial date to accommodate consolidation are not legitimate purposes.

13 77. The statute sets out the required procedures for who to request for filing of the  
14 petitions and for the timely disposition. All Petitioner's/Respondent's to the petition have the  
15 right to have these procedures followed, and a right to a jury trial. As Petitioner was denied his  
16 statutory procedural rights, and denied his right to a trial at a meaningful time and in a meaningful  
17 manner, he was denied equal protection under California and the United States Constitutions.  
18 Further, Mr. Johnson has been denied his right to direct appeal the superior court's orders such as  
19 transporting him to Atascadero State Hospital to await trial on this moot petition, and releasing  
20 confidential, medical records to the district attorney over Petitioner's objection, not able to have  
21 his issues addressed by the Sixth District appeals court on direct appeal. There has been and will  
22 continue to be no ability to challenge these superior court orders because the First Petition is moot.

23 78. *Johnson* further contends that SVPA violates his Equal Protection rights under the  
24 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and Article I, Section VII of the  
25 California Constitution by his incarceration without limitations on when a trial should be held.

26 79. The concept of equal protection of the laws compels recognition of the proposition  
27 that persons similarly situated with respect to the legitimate purpose of the law receive like  
28 treatment. (*In re Gary W.* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 296, 303) The first prerequisite to a meritorious claim

1 under the equal protection clause is a showing that the state has adopted a classification that  
 2 effects two or more similarly situated groups in an unequal manner. *In re Eric J.*(1979) 25 Cal.3d  
 3 522, 530; *People v. Buffington*, (1999) 74 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1149, 1154. The initial inquiry is not  
 4 whether persons are similarly situated for all purposes, but “whether they are similarly situated for  
 5 purposes of the law challenged.” *People v. Gibson*, 204 Ca.App.3d 1425, 1438.

6 80. **Johnson** contends that he is similarly situated for purposes of the law with persons  
 7 under Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity (NGI)-Penal Code Section 1026; Mentally Disordered  
 8 Offender Law (MDO)-Penal Code Section 2972; Lanterman-Petris-Short Act-Welfare and  
 9 Institutions Code 5300. For example, under the SVPA after probable cause is found the Act  
 10 simply states that a trial must be ordered.(*W&IC. §6002*), however, all other civil commitment  
 11 schemes mandate that a trial be conducted within a prescribed period of time. For example:

12 a). NGI-P.C. § 1026.5 (b)(4) requires that persons be provided a trial “no later than  
 13 30 calendar days prior to the time the person would other wise have been  
 14 released, unless that time is waived by the person or unless good cause is  
 15 shown .”

16 b). MDO-P.C. § 2972(a) requires the trial to “commence no later than 30 calendar  
 17 days prior to the time the persons would otherwise have been released, unless  
 18 the time is waived by the person or unless good cause is shown.”

19 c). LPSA-W&CI. § 5303, “If no decision has been made within 30 days after the  
 20 filing of the petition, not including extensions of time requested by the  
 21 person’s attorney, the person shall be released.”

22 81. There is a presumption that the Legislature enacts exactly what it intended and any  
 23 perceived omission is intentional. The California Supreme Court noted in *California Fed Saving*  
 24 *& Loan v. City of Los Angeles*, (1995) 11 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 342, 349 that since the legislature knows how to  
 25 created an exception, and not do so, it must be assumed that omission was intentional.

26 82. Since, the legislature did not provide for strict procedural limitation on how long a  
 27 potential SVP can be held pending a trial, it must be assumed that any punitive or oppressive  
 28 incarceration resulting from such lack of procedures was intended.

83. The United States Supreme Court has held that, “involuntary commitment statutes [will be upheld] provided the confinement takes place pursuant to proper procedural and evidentiary standards.” *Kansas v. Hendricks*, 117 S.Ct. 2072 (1997); *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80(1992) The Fourteenth Amendment states that: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges of immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” Article I, Section Vii of the California Constitution in similar fashion states that: “A person may not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law or denied equal protection of the law.”

84. The Legislature has stated that the SVPA has no punitive purposes, yet it lacks the strict procedural limitations necessary to prevent the kind of punitive and oppressive incarceration *Johnson* has experienced, while all other civil schemes protect persons from such incarceration. *Johnson* contends that the lack of such limitations is clear indication the legislature intended to treatment *Johnson* differently than other similarly situated persons who are involuntarily committed, but have strict procedural requirements to prevent punitive and oppressive incarceration. Thereby, *Johnson* contends that such unequal treatment violates his equal protections rights under the United States and California Constitutions.

85. The prejudice to Mr. Johnson has and is continuing to escalate.

86. For example, the 2004-2006 extended petition was filed without the W&IC. §6604.1 statutory procedural prerequisites, which states in pertinent part:

**§6604.1. Commencement of term of commitment**

“(a). The two-year term of commitment provided for in Section 6604 shall commence on the date upon which the court issues the initial order of commitment pursuant to that section. The initial two-year term shall not be reduced by any time spent in a secure facility prior to the order of commitment. “For any subsequent extended commitment, the term of commitment shall be for two-years commencing from the date of the termination of the previous commitment.”

1           87.     There was an acknowledgement by the Sixth District Appellate in their decision,  
2     that Petitioner had not had a trial on his 2002-2004 petition when the district attorney filed the  
3     2004-2006 petition:

4           *On February 17, 2004, while the first recommitment petition was still pending, the*  
5     *People filed a second recommitment petition to extend Johnson's commitment for another two*  
6     *years, until May of 2006, alleging that Johnson's "current commitment" was due to expire on*  
7     *May 24, 2004, even though no commitment trial had yet been held. (see 21Cal.Rptr.3d 21,123*  
8     *Cal. App.4<sup>th</sup> 1156 Litmon/Johnson v. Superior Court, (Cal.App. 6 Dist. 2004 at p. 6.)*

9           88.     Now, the district attorney has went even further by disregarding the W&IC §6604.1  
10    and filed a 2006-2008 extended petition even though no commitment trial had yet been held on the  
11    2004-2006 extended petition which also expired over Mr. Johnson's objection to a continuance  
12    and or consolidation of the 2004-2006 and 2006-2008 petitions.

13          89.     Mr. Johnson was denied a trial on each of or consolidations of these two petitions  
14    and sentence to an indeterminate term retroactively to his 2000-2002 initial petition which now  
15    and has been pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Writ of Habeas Corpus for almost  
16    over two-three years now.

17          90.     Petitioner's non trial indeterminate sentence was predicated on the "Jessica Law,  
18    S.B.1128, and "Proposition 83", allegedly allowing the court to retroactively go back to Mr.  
19    Johnson's initial 2000-2002 petition commitment and resentence him to an indeterminate "life  
20    term" sentence.

21          91.     Notwithstanding the fact that in the Sixth District of Appeals decision in the  
22    **Johnson** consolidation case they ruled:

23           *"Although we are convinced that trial courts have the inherent power to consolidate*  
24    *recommitment petitions, we are also convinced that, unless an [123 Cal.App.4th 1176] SVP*  
25    *consents to it, resort to consolidation should rarely \*35 be necessary. If a recommitment petition*  
26    *is tried at or near the commencement of the commitment period to which it relates, there will be*  
27    *no overlapping petition and thus no need for consolidation. If, for some compelling reason, the*  
28    *first recommitment petition cannot be tried before a second recommitment petition is also ready to*

1 *be tried by both sides, it may well be that consolidation does not violate this legislative intent.*  
 2 *However, when the trial on the earlier petition can be held within the two-year commitment period*  
 3 *to which it relates, and the SVP has announced ready for trial and has objected to consolidation*  
 4 *or a continuance, consolidation appears to be at odds with the legislative intent codified in the*  
 5 *SVPA. The SVPA is designed to ensure that the continued confinement of an SVP is justified, if at*  
 6 *all, at least every two years. The legislative scheme's emphasis on frequent justification for the*  
 7 *confinement of each SVP demands that an SVP not be confined without an adjudication of the*  
 8 *justification for that confinement, solely because judicial resources will thereby be conserved.*

9 *Furthermore, under such circumstances, a continuance of the trial on a prior petition in*  
 10 *order to join it with a later petition would not only be inconsistent with the procedures mandated*  
 11 *by the SVPA, but also would fail to solve the problem of delay. In our view, permitting a policy of*  
 12 *liberal consolidation of recommitment petitions may tend to encourage delay, not reduce it.*

13 *We therefore hold that because the SVPA evidences a legislative intent to provide a trial*  
 14 *on every filed recommitment petition as close in time to the expiration of the prior commitment as*  
 15 *practicable, it is error to order consolidation over objection when a consolidated trial can occur*  
 16 *only if the earlier petition is further delayed.” **Litmon/Johnson v. Superior Court**, 21 Cal.Rptr.3d*  
 17 *21, 123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1156, (Cal.App.6 Dist.2004)(at p. 21-22).*

18 92. The superior court allowed the district attorney to consolidate the 2004-2006, 2006-  
 19 2008 petitions over Petitioners objection and any continuance, and both parties had agreed to a  
 20 previous trial date, and had more than enough time to have a trial on the first 2004-2006 petition.

21 93. On page 14 of the sixth district of appeals court ruling, they ruled in pertinent part:  
 22 “.... *“Moreover, defendant’s current confinement is not related to the 2002 petition pertained;*  
 23 *furthermore, he has already been tried on the consolidation petitions for the period from 2004 to*  
 24 *2006 and 2006 to 2008, and is currently confined in a state hospital pursuant to court’s June 29,*  
 25 *2007 order adjudging him a sexually violent predator. An appeal from that order is pending.*

26 94. On page 15 of the sixth district of appeals court, they ruled in pertinent part :

27 “... *“We see no likelihood that the situation of which defendant now complains will be*  
 28 *repeated on a statewide basis. If such repetition does occur, we may decide at some future time*

1 *that moot trials in SVP cases raise issues of statewide importance that are capable of repetition*  
 2 *yet evade review."*

3 95. In *Hubbart v. Knapp*, 379 F.3d 773 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004), controls as to whether *Johnson's*  
 4 appeal in moot. There, the State argued that *Hubbart's* claim that his commitment under the  
 5 SVP Act violation his constitutional rights was moot because *Hubbart* petitioned for habeas relief  
 6 for his initial term of confinement, which had expired. That Court held that *Hubbart's* petition  
 7 was not moot because his claims were capable of repetition yet evading review. See *Id* at \*1072  
 8 777-78 (noting that a two-year commitment under the SVP Act is too short a time for the validity  
 9 of the commitment to be fully litigated). The Court went on to say: "We stated that an action is  
 10 capable of repetition yet evading review when: "(1) the challenged action [is] in its duration too  
 11 short to be fully litigated prior to cessation or expiration, and (2) there [is] a reasonable  
 12 expectation that the same complaining party [will] be subject to the same action again." *Id.* At  
 13 777(citation and internal quotation marks omitted). In this case, like, *Johnson* can show that the  
 14 claim in his habeas petition challenging the validity of his May 2000 civil commitment is and has  
 15 capable of repetition yet evading review: in June 2007, *Johnson* was recommitted to an  
 16 indeterminate commitment without a trial as an SVP, which subjected him to a life term in a  
 17 mental hospital.

18 96. *Johnson's* asserts challenges only his May 2002-2004 civil commitment  
 19 proceedings, that if the Court conclude that the state court's finding of "due process and equal  
 20 protection" at the September 5, 2007 moot petition trial and appeal was unconstitutional, then  
 21 *Johnson's* June 2007 hearing would also be unconstitutional. Put another way, if the Court finds  
 22 *Johnson's* due process argument persuasive, the Court can strike both the 2002-2004 moot petition  
 23 civil commitment and the June 2007 re-commitment, and relieve *Johnson* from the additional re-  
 24 commitment requirements placed on an potential SVP. Accordingly, *Johnson's* appeal is not moot  
 25 because the Court could grant him relief. *Carty v. Nelson*, 426 F.3d 1064(C.A.9 (Cal.) 2005 at p.  
 26 16; *Jackson v. California Dept. Of Mental Health*, 399 F.3d 1069(C.A. 9(Cal.) 2005).

27 97. Here, by contrast, *Johnson's* initial SVPA term expired *before* he brought his  
 28 federal habeas petition. When the district court first considered his case, *Johnson* was no longer

1 confined under the order he claims the state lacked jurisdiction to enter. The relevant question is  
2 not whether **Johnson's** challenge became moot at some point, but whether he had standing when  
3 he brought it.

4 98. Standing and mootness are similar doctrines: Both require some sort of interest in  
5 the case, and both go to whether there is a case or controversy under Article III. Yet, the doctrines  
6 have important \*1073 differences. "Standing doctrine functions to ensure ... that the scarce  
7 resources of the federal courts are devoted to those disputes in which the parties have a concrete  
8 stake." *Friends of the Earth*, 528 U.S. at 191, 120 S.Ct. 693. Mootness issues arise later in the  
9 case, when the federal courts are already involved and resources have already been devoted to the  
10 dispute. *See id.* at 191-92, 120 S.Ct. 693. The Supreme Court has therefore been willing to  
11 recognize exceptions to mootness that do not apply to standing. Most important among these is  
12 the exception we applied in *Hubbart* for cases that are capable of repetition, yet evading review.  
13 This exception is not applicable to the standing question we address here: "[I]f a plaintiff lacks  
14 standing at the time the action commences, the fact that the dispute is capable of repetition yet  
15 evading review will not entitle the complainant to a federal judicial forum." *Id.* at 191, 120 S.Ct.  
16 693. Accordingly, we must determine whether **Johnson** had standing to raise his claim in the first  
17 place.

18 99. Before the Court consider the merits of Johnson's petition, the Court must decide  
19 whether it presents a case or controversy under Article III of the Constitution. *See Allen v. Wright*,  
20 468 U.S. 737, 750, 104 S.Ct. 3315, 82 L.Ed.2d 556 (1984). Article III imposes two important  
21 limitations on the type of interest that a litigant must have for a federal court to adjudicate his case.  
22 First, **Johnson** must have had standing to bring this claim. In other words, **Johnson** must have  
23 suffered (1) an "injury in fact" that is (2) "fairly traceable" to the state court's commitment  
24 order that challenges, and (3) that is "likely [to be] redressed by a favorable decision." *See*  
25 *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 180-81 (2000).

26 100. **Johnson** may nonetheless have standing if the state court's SVPA commitment  
27 order still carried with it "some concrete and continuing injury other than now-ended  
28 incarceration." *Spencer*, 523 U.S. at 7, 118 S.Ct. 978. The Supreme Court has applied this doctrine

1 in its mootness cases, recognizing that collateral consequences may be “adequate to meet Article  
 2 III’s injury-in-fact requirement” to avoid mootness. *Id.* At 14, 118 S.Ct.978. For instance, some  
 3 disabilities that a defendant suffers because of his conviction are sufficient to keep his appeal of  
 4 the conviction from becoming moot, even if his sentence expires during the appeal. *See North*  
 5 *Carolina v. Rice*, 404 U.S. 244, 247, 92 S.ct. 402, 30 L.Ed.2d 413 (1971) (per curiam). There is  
 6 no conceptual reason why the collateral consequences doctrine should not extend to standing in a  
 7 case like *Johnson’s*.

8 101. Continuing effects of *Johnson’s* commitment may be significant enough to satisfy  
 9 the injury in fact requirement for standing, and a decision invalidating the state court’s order  
 10 would remedy those continuing effects. There are, however, other injuries that *Johnson*  
 11 suffers or has suffered that might be consequences of the state court’s determination that he is a  
 12 sexually violent predator: (1) the voluntary confinement term he was serving when he filed his  
 13 habeas petition; (2) the possibility that he will be involuntarily confined in the future; and (3)  
 14 there reputational harm associated with the SVPA determination. Lets consider each of these in  
 15 turn.

#### 16 *CURRENT VOLUNTARY CONFINEMENT*

17 102. When Johnson’s initial SVPA term expired in 2002, the state petition to recommit  
 18 him for a second two-year term; he was recommitted on that moot 2002-2004 petition, and before  
 19 there was a trial on the 2002-2004 moot recommitment petition the state had filed a 2004-2006  
 20 recommitment, and before there was a trial on the 2004-2006 recommitment petition, the state  
 21 filed a 2006-2008 recommitment petition which was then consolidated, and Johnson was  
 22 eventually convicted/commitment on these two (2004-2006 and 2006-2008) petitions without a  
 23 trial. As a result, Johnson was and still is confined at now Coalinga State Hospital(CSH) when he  
 24 filed his habeas petition. But while his confinement was clearly an injury in fact, it is also clear  
 25 that it is “tracable to the challenged action” of the state. *Friends of the Earth*, 528 U.S. at 180, 120  
 26 S.Ct. 693.

#### 27 *POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE CONFINEMENT*

28 103. *Johnson* has standing because he is now in the future with a indeterminate

1 involuntarily confined sentence/commitment without a trial on the 2004-2006 and 2006-2008  
 2 recommitment petitions. *Johnson* has been involuntarily recommitted by the state courts under  
 3 successive SVPA petitions, his initial SVPA confinement has served as a prerequisite for his  
 4 second petition, the second petition was a prerequisite for the third, and so forth. Thus, all future  
 5 petitions to recommit *Johnson* could be traced back, through preceding petitions, to his initial  
 6 confinement.

7 104. *Johnson's* case does involve such a chain, the state petitions to recommit him, the  
 8 prerequisite for the petition are current involuntary confinement. His current confinement is  
 9 traceable to the state court's SVPA confinement order, the Court can trace any and all future  
 10 confinement petitions back to the order. The action [is] in its duration too short to be fully litigated  
 11 prior to the cessation or expiration. *Johnson's* claims also satisfy the second "capable of  
 12 repetition" component of this analysis because of the courts and prosecutors delay, and the fact  
 13 that the petition had already expired becoming moot subjecting *Johnson* to a second SVPA  
 14 commitment proceeding in which he argues is just as unconstitutional as the 2002-2004 moot  
 15 petition. *Johnson's* claims "evade review" because a delayed two-year commitment team  
 16 without being committed under the SVPA is/was "too short to be *fully litigated* prior to ... [its]  
 17 expiration." *Id.* (*emphasis added*); see also *Sibron v. New York*, 392 U.S. 40, 52-53, 88 S.Ct. 1889,  
 18 20 L.Ed.2d 917 (1968) ("Many deep and abiding constitutional problems are encountered  
 19 primarily at a level of ... offenses which carry only short sentences. We do not believe that the  
 20 Constitution contemplates that people deprived of constitutional rights at this level should be left  
 21 utterly remediless and defenseless against repetitions of unconstitutional conduct.") *Hubbart v.*  
 22 *Knapp*, 378 F.3d 773, (C.A.9(Cal.)2004).

#### 24 REPUTATIONAL HARM

25 105. There is little doubt that *Johnson's* adjudication as a sexually violent predator  
 26 carries with consequences to his reputation. Although it is not clear how much of the harm is  
 27 attributable to the SVPA designation as such—as opposed to the sexual crime convictions that  
 28 Provided the basis for the designation(*which is currently on appeal in the Ninth Circuit of*

1 *Appeals*) –the designation itself is an injury.

2 106. To consider the merits of *Johnson*'s petition the Court must determine "whether it  
3 presents a case or controversy under Article III of the Constitution."*Jackson v. Cal. Dep't of*  
4 *Mental Health*, 399 F.3d 1069, 1071 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004); *see also Caswell v. Calderon*, 363 F. 3d 832,  
5 836 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) ("A case is moot if it does not satisfy the case-or- controversy requirement of  
6 Article III, s 2, of the Constitution."). *Carty v. Nelson*, 426 F.3d 1064(C.A.9(Cal.)2005)

7 107. On page 15 of the sixth district of appeals court, they ruled in pertinent part :

8 "... "We see no likelihood that the situation of which defendant now complains will be  
9 repeated on a statewide basis. If such repetition does occur, we may decide at some future time  
10 that moot trials in SVP cases raise issues of statewide importance that are capable of repetition yet  
11 evade review.

12 108. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals stated in it's ruling:

13 "We hold that Hubbard's habeas petition is not moot because his claims are capable  
14 of repetition yet evading review . This well established exception to mootness  
15 applies when "(1) the challenged action [is] in its duration too short to be fully  
16 litigated prior to cessation or expiration, and (2) there [is] a reasonable  
17 expectation that the same complaining party [will] be subject to the same action  
18 again." *Id.* At 17, 118 S.Ct. 978 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).

19 109. Hubbard's claims satisfy the second "capable of repetition" component of this  
20 analysis because he has already been subject to a second SVPA commitment proceeding, \*778  
21 which he argues was just as unconstitutional as the first. Hubbard's claims "evade review"  
22 because a two-year commitment under the SVPA is too short to be *fully litigated* prior to ...[its]  
23 expiration." *Id (emphasis added)*; 1889, 20 L.Ed.2d 917 (1968) ("Many deep and abiding  
24 constitutional problems are encountered primarily at a level of ... offenses which carry only short  
25 sentences. We do not believe that the Constitution contemplates that people deprived of  
26 constitutional rights at this level should be left utterly remediless and defenseless against  
27 repetitions of unconstitutional conduct.").

1           110. A claim evades review if “the underlying action is almost certain to run its course  
2 before either this court or the Supreme Court can give the case full consideration.” *Biodiversity*  
3 *Legal Found v. Badgley*, 309 F.3d 1166, 1173 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.2002) (citation and quotation marks  
4 omitted). There is no dispute that neither this court nor the Supreme Court has given Hubbard's  
5 case full consideration. *See id.* at 1173-74 (“[A]n issue that 'evades review' is one which, in its  
6 regular course, resolves itself without allowing sufficient time for appellate review.”); *see also*  
7 *Brown v. Allen*, 344 U.S. 443, 456, 73 S.Ct. 397, 97 L.Ed. 469 (1953) (“[T]he denial of certiorari  
8 imports no expression of opinion upon the merits of a case.”) (quotation marks and citation  
9 omitted). While it is true that he has had his day in California's appellate courts, Hubbard has yet  
10 to “fully litigate” his habeas claims in federal court.

11           111. In *Alaska Ctr. for the Env't v. United States Forest Serv.*, 189 F.3d 851, 855 (9th  
12 Cir.1999), we held that a challenge to a National Forest Service permit could not be fully litigated  
13 within two years. We now hold that it is “almost certain” that a state detainee under California's  
14 civil commitment scheme for sexually violent predators will be unable to exhaust state remedies  
15 and “fully litigate” a habeas petition in federal courts within two years. *See Biodiversity Legal*  
16 *Found.*, 309 F.3d at 1173-74; *cf. First Nat'l Bank v. Bellotti*, 435 U.S. 765, 774, 98 S.Ct. 1407, 55  
17 L.Ed.2d 707 (1978) (finding that 18 months is too short); *Spencer*, 523 U.S. at 17, 118 S.Ct. 978  
18 (finding that three years provides enough time for a state prisoner to litigate federal habeas  
19 claims).

20           112. Furthermore, we reject the suggestion that Hubbard's petition has not evaded review  
21 because the California courts have already ruled on his claims. We hold that for purposes of  
22 determining mootness in connection with California's repeating pattern of two-year commitments  
23 under the SVPA, a federal constitutional claim evades review if the challenged action expires  
24 before a federal appellate court has the opportunity to fully consider the allegation. *See*  
25 *Biodiversity Legal Found.*, 309 F.3d at 1173 (holding that “full litigation” includes review by “this  
26 court” or the Supreme Court); *see also Brown*, 344 U.S. at 463-65, 73 S.Ct. 397 (holding that  
27 habeas litigation filed by state prisoners includes review by federal judges).

# **VIII. VACATUR**

113. When a case becomes moot on appeal, *as here in Johnson's case*, the “established practice” is to reverse or vacate the decision below with a direction to dismiss. *Arizonans for Official English v. Arizona*, 520 U.S. 43, 71, 117 S.Ct. 1055, 137 L.Ed.2d 170 (1997) (citing *United States v. Munsingwear, Inc.*, 340 U.S. 36, 39, 71 S.Ct. 104, 95 L.Ed. 36 (1950)). Vacatur is such a situation “eliminate[es] a judgment the loser (**Mr. Johnson**) was stopped from opposing on direct review.” *Arizonans for Official English*, 520 U.S. at 71, 117 S.Ct. 1055. Without vacatur, the lower court’s judgment, “which in the statutory scheme was only preliminary,” would escape meaningful appellate review thanks to the “happenstance” of mootness. *United States v. Munsingwear, Inc.*, 340 U.S. 36, 39, 71 S.Ct. 104, 95 L.Ed. 36 (1950). Under the “*Munsingwear* rule,” vacatur is generally “automatic” in the Ninth Circuit when a case becomes moot on appeal (*such as Mr. Johnson's case*) . *Publ. Util. Comm'n v. FERC*, 100 F.3d 1451, 1461(9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996).

114. When **Mr. Johnson** filed his writ of mandamus to the sixth district court of appeals on the consolidation issue (*Litmon/Johnson v. Superior Court 21 Cal.Rptr.3d 21,123 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1156(CalApp. 6 Dist 2004)*), the appellate court placed a stay on all the proceedings in the lower court causing the petition to become moot while waiting their decision. Petition asserts that that stay that was ordered is appealable because it placed Petitioner “effectively out of court, and denied him an appeal” *Moses H. Cone Mem'l Hosp. v. Mercury Constr. Corp.*, 460 U.S. 1, 10, 103 S.Ct. 927, 74 L.Ed.2d 765 (1983). In *Moses H. Cone*, The Supreme Court held that an order staying litigation in federal court pending the resolution of a case in state court that would have res judicata effect on federal case placed the plaintiff effectively out of court. *Id. Moses H. Cone* applies whenever there is a possibility that proceedings in another court could moot a suit or an issue even if there is no guarantee that they will do so. *Lockyer v. Mirant Corp.*, 398 F.3d 1098, 1102 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.2005). However, the majority of circuits that have considered this question have found jurisdiction. See *Hines v. D'Artois*, 531 F.2d 726, 731 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir.1976); *AM.Mfrs. Mut. Inc. Co. v. Edward D. Stone, Jr. & Assocs.*, 723 F.2d 1519 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. (1984); *Kahn v. Gen Motors Corp.*, 889 F.2d 1078, 1080 (Fed. Cir.1989); *Johnson & Johnson, Inc. v. Wallace A. Erickson & Co.*, 627 F.2d 57, 62 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir.1980); see also *Rojas-Hernandez v. Puerto Rico Elec. Power Auth.*,

925 F.2d 492, 495 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 1991) treating a denial of a motion to set a trial date as a stay and finding jurisdiction due to the indefinite delay); *Discon Inc. v. NYNEX Corp.*, 4 F.3d 130, 134 (2d Cir. 1993) (finding jurisdiction under the collateral order doctrine because the stay imposed an indefinite delay placing the plaintiff effectively out of court); but see *Marcus v. Twp. of Abigton*, 38 F.3d 1367, 1370 (3d Cir.1994); *Crystal Clear Commc'ns v. Sw. Bell Tel Co.*, 415 \*724 F.3d 1171 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir.2005) The Court in *United States v. Howard* 429 F.3d 843 agree with the majority position that lengthy and indefinite stays place a plaintiff effectively out of court. Such an indefinite delay amounts to a refusal to proceed to a disposition on the merits. *Disco Inc.* 4 F.3d at 134. Even if litigation may eventually resume, such stays create a “danger of denying justice by delay.” *Am. Mfrs.* 43 F.2d at 1524. Delay “inherently increases the risk that witnesses’ Memories will fade and evidence will become stale.” *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.2002). Additionally, in some cases plaintiffs may go out of business awaiting recovery or face irreparable harm during the time that their suits are on ice. The stay in this case not only went over Petitioners two year petition term and over a year from that term, and then denied Petitioners Writ of Mandamus to dismiss the petition because of it’s mootness before trial.

115. In *U.S. Bancorp Mortg. Co. v. Bonner Mall Partnership*, They also agree that vacatur must be granted where mootness results from the unilateral action of the party who prevailed in the lower court. Such as what has transpired in *Johnson’s case* where the court’s granting the prosecutions consolidation motion that was later reversed by the appeals court caused the delay causing the petition to become moot. The principal condition to which we have looked is whether the party seeking relief from the judgment, below caused the mootness by voluntary action. See *Hamburg-Amerikanische, supra*, 239 U.S., at 478, 36 S.Ct., at 217 (remanding a moot case for dismissal because “the ends of justice exact. [513 U.S. 25] that judgment below should not be permitted to stand when without any fault of the [petitioner] there is no power to review it upon the merits”); *Heitmuller v. Stokes*, 256 U.S., at 362, 41 S.Ct., at 523-524 (remanding for dismissal because “without fault of the plaintiff in error, the defendant in error, after the proceedings below, ... caus[ed] the case to become moot”) The same is true when the mootness result from unilateral action of the party who here prevailed be below. See *Walling*, 321 U.S., at

675, 64 S.Ct. , at 828; *Heitmuller, supra*, 256 U.S., at 362, 41 S.Ct., at 523-524.

116. It is petitioner's burden, as the party seeking relief from the status quo of the appellate judgment, to demonstrate not merely equivalent responsibility for the mootness, but equitable entitlement to the extraordinary remedy of vacatur.

117. Petitioner is and has demonstrated his equitable entitlement to vacatur. *U.S. Bancorp Mortgage Co. v. Bonner Mall Partnership*, 513 U.S. 18, 26, 115 S.Ct. 386, 130 L.ed.2d 233n(1994). The present case is one in which the court and the prosecution's own actions rendered the case and appeal moot. Petitioner objected to their proceedings, and did not fail to appeal.

### CONCLUSION

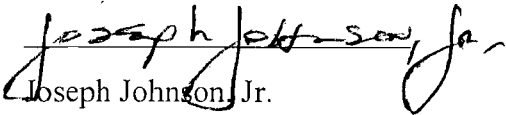
118. Having determined that the case/appeal is moot, the Court must decide whether they should vacate the lower courts judgment. Although it is general practice to vacate the judgment below whenever a case becomes moot. See *United States v. Munsingwear, Inc.*, 340 U.S. 36, 39, 71 S.Ct. 104, 106-07, 95 L.Ed. 36 (1950), more recent cases hold that the decision to vacate is not to be made mechanically, but should be based on equitable consideration. See *U.S. Bancorp Mortgage Co. v. Bonner Mall Partnership*, 513 U.S. 18, ---, 115 S.Ct. 386, 391, 130 L.Ed.2d 233 (1994); *Dilley v. Gunn*, 64 F.3d 1365, 1370 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995). "The principal condition to which the Court have looked is whether the party seeking relief from the judgment below caused the mootness by voluntary action." *Bonner Mall*, 513 U.S. at ---, 115 S.Ct. at 391.

119. Petitioner has sufficiently and significantly previously applied and cited cases in his arguments, and in sections I; II,A,B,1; III,I; IV; V; VI; VII; VIII, that he thinks are closely factually examples of errors he believes occurred in this case.

120. Wherefore, as there is/are/was no legal basis to proceed on this moot petition, Petitioner prays that the Court issues petition for writ of habeas corpus and other such relief to which Petitioner may be entitled. I Joseph Johnson, Jr., declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on August 20, 2008, at Coalinga State Hospital, City of Coalinga, Fresno County, CA. 93210.

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Joseph Johnson, Jr.

PETITIONER/PRO SE.

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**EXHIBIT "A"**



Atascadero State Hospital  
P.O. Box 7004, Atascadero, CA 93423-7004  
(805) 468-3192 Fax: (805) 468-2582

April 10, 2002

George Kennedy, District Attorney  
Office of the District Attorney  
County of Santa Clara  
70 W. Hedding Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, California 95110-1768

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| PATIENT NAME:                    | JOHNSON, Joseph Jr. |
| STATE HOSPITAL NUMBER:           | 050302-9            |
| SUPERIOR COURT CASE NUMBER:      | 210431              |
| DATE TERM OF COMMITMENT EXPIRES: | May 24, 2002        |

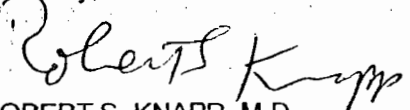
This is to notify you that the Department of Mental Health recommends that a petition for extension of commitment be filed in the case of the above-named patient, an individual committed as a Sexually Violent Predator under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6604. The patient's term of commitment expires on the date indicated above.

State hospital treatment staff believes that this patient is a person who continues to meet all the legal and clinical criteria which led to the original civil commitment and therefore qualifies for extension of commitment under provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6604.

Enclosed for your information are copies of two recent Welfare and Institution Code Section 6600 Sexual Violent Predator Re-Commitment Evaluations, dated February 11, 2002 and February 22, 2002.

We respectfully request that your office promptly advise the state hospital of your decision regarding SVP commitment extension. Timely information regarding extension is needed by the state hospital to make appropriate plans for the patient, and to assure that no civilly committed patient is kept in custody beyond the period ordered by the court. Please contact Robert S. Knapp, M.D., Medical Director, at (805) 468-2205, if further information or assistance is needed.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT S. KNAPP, M.D.  
Medical Director, Atascadero State Hospital

RSK: sc

Enclosure

c: Superior Court Judge, County of Commitment  
Public Defender/Defense Attorney of Record  
ConRep Program Director - South Bay Conditional Release Program  
CDC Parole and Community Services Division  
Police Chief/Sheriff of County of Commitment/Residence/Potential Release

Confidential  
Patient's Copy

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**EXHIBIT "B"**

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1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-2088

September 26, 2006

Ralph W. Benitez  
Office of the Public Defender  
County of Santa Clara  
120 West Mission Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Mr. Benitez:

We have received your letter dated August 25, 2006 regarding Joseph Johnson. In that letter you demanded that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) file a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 7250. You also cited WIC 6604(f) that states that when the DMH has reason to believe that the person committed as a sexually violent predator is no longer a sexually violent predator, the DMH shall seek judicial review. To support your position, you submitted two evaluations and a letter from the Medical Director at Atascadero State Hospital, Dr. David Fennell.

Please be advised that Dr. Fennell, as Medical Director of Atascadero State Hospital (ASH), can represent and speak for ASH in that capacity, but does not represent the Department's opinion nor does he speak for the Department when the statute calls for action by the "Department" or the "Director of the Department." The final decision on whether or not to proceed, and how to proceed, on any case, when the statute calls for action or decision by the Department must be made by the Director of DMH. In addition, the letter from Dr. Fennell only states that he cannot find anything to disagree with, medically, in the evaluation reports. This does not mean that the Department has concluded, or must conclude, that your client is no longer a Sexually Violent Predator. It is for these reasons that DMH will not be filing a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Blount". The signature is written in a cursive style.

SYLVIA BLOUNT  
Chief  
Sex Offender Commitment Program

cc: James Cahan

Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District - No. H028873  
S135199

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

**En Banc**

---

JOSEPH JOHNSON, Petitioner,

v.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, Respondent;

THE PEOPLE, Real Party in Interest.

---

Petition for review DENIED.

SUPREME COURT  
**FILED**

SEP - 7 2005

Frederick K. Chirlen Clerk

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DEPUTY

GEORGE, <sup>✓</sup>

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Chief Justice

Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District - No. H029316  
S158324

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

**En Banc**

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THE PEOPLE, Plaintiff and Respondent,

v.

JOSEPH JOHNSON, Defendant and Appellant.

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The petition for review is denied.

SUPREME COURT  
**FILED**

JAN 23 2008

Frederick K. Ohlrich Clerk

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Deputy

GEORGE

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Chief Justice

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I, Joseph Johnson, Jr.,, declare:

I am, and was at the time of the service hereinafter mentioned, over the age of 18 years and ■ a party to the above-entitled cause. My (residence or business) address is CO-580-1; P.O. Box 5003; Coalinga, CA 93210

and I am a resident of, or employed in, Fresno County, California.

On the date of August 20, 2008 I served the

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

**SECOND AMENDED**

(exact title of document(s) served)

by depositing a copy of the document(s) in the United States mail at

(location) Coalinga State Hospital, (city) Coalinga,

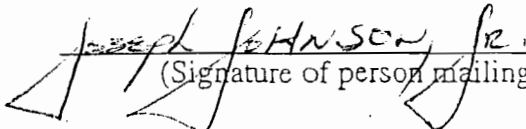
Fresno County, California in a sealed envelope, with postage fully prepaid, addressed as follows: (In the space below insert the name and mailing address of each person you are serving with these documents. If the person is a party to the action or an attorney for a party, indicate that with the address).

United States District Court  
Northern District of California  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

At the time of mailing there was regular delivery of United States mail between the place of deposit and the place of address.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: August 20, 2008

  
(Signature of person mailing)

Joseph Johnson, Jr.,  
(Name of person mailing, typed or printed)

JOSEPH JOHNSON, JR.,  
#580-1  
P.O. Box 5003  
COALINGA, CA 93210

LEGAL/CONFIDENTIAL MAIL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

RECEIVED  
AUG 22 2008

RICHARD W. WELING  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



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